

2025-2026 Year in Review

As a community-minded non-profit society, our goal continues to be providing comfort, compassion, and support to individuals and families experiencing palliative and end-of-life care. This year has been one of growth, collaboration, and meaningful contributions within our communities.

One of the initiatives discussed throughout the year was providing meals for families of palliative patients. After considering several options, the Society decided to begin distributing pizza vouchers, starting with 10 vouchers. These will be distributed in a manner similar to the volunteer resources program for new babies, helping provide comfort and support to families during difficult times.

This year, the Society also participated in the local Farmers' Market as a way to increase community awareness about palliative care and the supports we provide. A new freestanding banner was created and purchased for use at community events and outreach opportunities, helping improve the visibility and recognition of the Society throughout the region.

Our annual Light Up a Memory campaign was once again a success. Donations were received online, by mail, and through our silver donation boxes. This year, 132 donors honoured 445 loved ones, with donations totaling \$5,719. Thank you to the committee members and Society volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making this campaign meaningful and successful year after year. We are also very grateful to the many community businesses that supported this campaign by displaying donation boxes and posters.

Grimshaw palliative care room received a wonderful facelift this year. Updates included fresh paint, repaired cupboards, a new wardrobe cabinet, clock, whiteboard, television, table, chairs, and cart. Electrical upgrades were also completed, allowing the previous television to be mounted in the family room while a new television was installed on the patient side. These improvements have helped create a more comforting, welcoming, and peaceful space for patients and their families. While the majority of the renovations to the Peace River palliative care room were completed last year, finishing touches were finalized this year. It is now complete and we have received many positive

comments about it. Thank you to the committee members, maintenance department and staff whose time, effort and support helped make these renovations possible.

Our annual Service of Remembrance was held on November 25 at the Chapel of Memories and was jointly sponsored by the Society and the Chapel. Beautiful musical selections were provided by Katie and Jason Leussink, and Twyla Burdick. Elie Robinson once again served as MC, and China Sieger read the names of loved ones being remembered. Thank you to Karen for leading this event and to all the committee members and volunteers whose efforts helped create such a calming and reflective service for families and community members.

A huge thank you goes to Katie for creating a new website for the Society. Tavi and Bre L have already participated in an introductory training session and will continue sharing their knowledge with the rest of the Society moving forward.

Our new bylaws are very close to being officially adopted and are expected to be finalized at the AGM or final meeting of the year. This has been an enormous undertaking, and I would like to recognize the committee members for their incredible dedication and hard work throughout the process. Alongside the bylaws, we will also be adopting a new mission statement.

In addition, the Society has been working toward establishing clearer procedures and guidelines regarding requests for financial assistance. These procedures will help ensure directors have a fair and consistent process to follow when reviewing and voting on assistance requests brought forward to the Society.

The Give Back Committee continues to provide comfort bags to both Peace River and Grimshaw, offering practical support and comfort to families during difficult times.

This year, we were fortunate to receive support from many generous organizations and individuals. We gratefully acknowledge a donation from Royal Canadian Legion Branch 253, which helped fund renovations and upgrades to the Grimshaw palliative care room. We also sincerely thank ATCO for supporting us for the third consecutive year through the Epic ATCO program, as well as AGS Mechanical for including us in their 12 Days of

Christmas initiative. We are also grateful to Western Financial Group for their generous donation, and to Lavergne Construction for replacing the television in the Peace River palliative care room. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the many families and individuals who made private donations in memory or honour of loved ones throughout the year.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our treasurer, Tavi, who researched tax receipt requirements and created tax receipts that now accommodate both cash and gift donations.

Death Cafés are once again taking place in our communities. A special thank you to Laura G for her leadership and dedication in organizing these events. One was held in Peace River on April 16 and another in Grimshaw on May 14, both hosted in partnership with the local libraries and Peace Valley Funeral Home. These gatherings continue to provide meaningful opportunities for open conversations surrounding death, grief, and end-of-life care. With no set agenda or formal structure, participants are encouraged to share thoughts, experiences and questions in a supportive environment, often leading to meaningful and thoughtful discussions.

Looking ahead, the Society will begin including a new agenda item at meetings focused on exploring additional ways we can support palliative care within our communities.

In closing, I would like to thank all Board and Society members, volunteers, donors, healthcare staff, community partners, and supporters for their continued compassion, dedication, and generosity. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our region.

Laura McFaddin
President
Peace Palliative Care Society